

FORM 3

CONSENT FOR EXAMINATION, TREATMENT OR CARE (Procedures where consciousness not impaired)

**WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM
PLEASE ENSURE THAT IT IS OPEN FLAT ON A HARD SURFACE
PRESS FIRMLY WITH BALLPOINT PEN ONLY**

Guidance to healthcare professionals

What a consent form is for

This form documents the person's agreement to go ahead with the investigation or treatment you have proposed. It is not a legal waiver - if individuals, for example, do not receive enough information on which to base their decision, then the consent may not be valid, even though the form has been signed. They are also entitled to change their mind after signing the form, if they retain capacity to do so. The form should act as an aide-memoire, by providing a check-list of the kind of information which should be offered, and by enabling the person to have a written record of the main points discussed. In no way, however, should the written information provided be regarded as a substitute for face-to-face discussions.

The law on Consent

See the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety publication Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care for a comprehensive summary of the law on consent (also available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk).

Who can give consent

Everyone aged 16 or more is presumed to be competent to give consent for themselves, unless the opposite is demonstrated. If a child under the age of 16 has "sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable him or her to understand fully what is proposed", then he or she will be competent to give consent for himself or herself. Young people aged 16 and 17, and legally 'competent' younger children, may therefore sign this form for themselves, but may like a parent to countersign as well. If the child is not able to give consent for himself or herself, someone with parental responsibility may do so on their behalf and a separate form (Form 2) is available for this purpose. Even when a child is able to give consent for himself or herself, you should always involve those with parental responsibility in the child's care, unless the child specifically asks you not to do so. If an individual is mentally competent to give consent but is physically unable to sign a form, you should complete this form as usual, and ask an independent witness to confirm that s/he has given consent orally or non-verbally.

When NOT to use this form

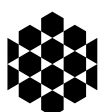
If the person is 18 or over and is not legally competent to give consent, you should use form 4 (form for adults who are unable to consent to investigation or treatment) instead of this form. A person will not be legally competent to give consent if:

- s/he is unable to comprehend and retain information material to the decision and/or
- s/he is unable to weigh and use this information in coming to a decision.

You should always take all reasonable steps (for example involving more specialist colleagues) to support an individual in making their own decision, before concluding that they are unable to do so. Relatives cannot be asked to sign this form on behalf of an adult who is not legally competent to consent for himself or herself.

Information

Information about what treatment will involve, its benefits and risks (including side-effects and complications) and the alternatives to the particular procedure proposed, is crucial for people when making up their minds. The courts have stated that patients should be told about 'significant risks which would affect the judgement of a reasonable patient'. 'Significant' has not been legally defined, but the GMC requires doctors to tell patients about 'serious or frequently occurring' risks. In addition if patients make clear they have particular concerns about certain kinds of risk, you should make sure they are informed about these risks, even if they are very small or rare. You should always answer questions honestly. Sometimes, people may make it clear that they do not want to have any information about the options, but want you to decide on their behalf. In such circumstances, you should do your best to ensure that they receive at least very basic information about what is proposed. Where information is refused, you should document this on the form and in the case notes.



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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(Procedures where consciousness not impaired)

Personal details (or pre-printed label)

Surname/family name
First names
Date of Birth
 Male Female H+C No. (or other identifier)
Special requirements (language or other)

Statement of healthcare professional

Responsible healthcare professional Job Title.....
Name of proposed procedure or course of treatment *(include side of body or site and brief explanation if medical term not clear)*
.....
.....

I have explained the procedure. In particular, I have explained
.....

The intended benefits
.....

Serious or frequently occurring risks
.....

I have also discussed what the procedure is likely to involve, the benefits and risks of any available alternative treatments (including no treatment), any samples that may be taken and any particular concerns of those involved.

The following leaflet/tape has been provided.....

Signed Date

Name (PRINT) Job Title

Statement of interpreter (where appropriate)

I have interpreted the information above to the best of my ability and in a way which I believe s/he/they can understand.

Signed Date

Name (PRINT)

Statement of person giving consent or with parental responsibility for child

I agree to the procedure or course of treatment described above.

I understand that you cannot give me a guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure. The person will, however, have appropriate experience.

I understand that the procedure will/will not involve local anaesthesia.

Signature Date

Name (PRINT) Relationship to child.....

Copy accepted Yes/No (please circle)